



WEEKLY NEWS 15.09.17

Thank you to all parents who came to the Information Meetings this Monday. We hope you found them helpful in supporting your child.

A reminder that the EYFS Information Meeting is on Monday 18th September at 3.30pm. It will take place in a Year 1.2 classroom so please enter the school through KS1 door.

Learning across school

We have been so impressed with how well the all the new Foundation Children have settled into life at St. Gilbert's. This week the children have enjoyed learning all about each other and their families. They have used mirrors to look closely at their own faces before painting self- portraits, which will be displayed on our classroom walls. It's also been lovely to hear the children talking about and comparing themselves to their baby photos. They have been amazed by how much they've all grown and changed over the last few years.

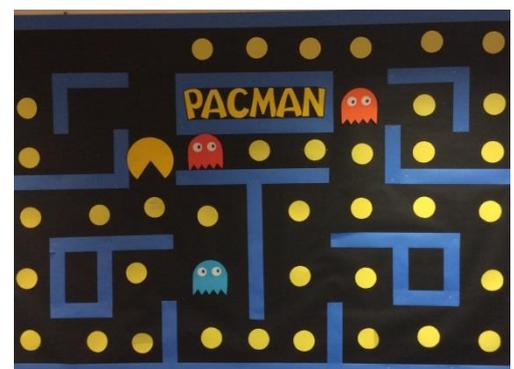
Year 1 and 2 have had a fantastic start to the new academic year and adjusted well to the new routines in their classes.

Their topic 'Toys' this term has enthused the children and they have been eager to share their favourite toys with their class. As they are learning about the history of toys, it would be lovely for you or the children's grandparents to talk about the toys you played with as children!

Years 3 and 4 have been busy solving tricky dilemmas on Scratch using the iPads! The Year 3s have also had their first French lesson. The Year 4s taught them what they knew about greeting others and we sang a brilliant song about elephants on trampolines!



All of the children in Year 5/6 have had an extremely good first couple of weeks back to school, showing off their talents both in and outside of the classroom. The teachers are very proud of the work the children have accomplished. They are all looking forward to an exciting day out at Wild's Lodge Festival next week and cannot wait to share their stories and pictures in next week's newsletter. In addition, Snicket class have made fantastic progress in their Pacman Plenary game, eating dots by answering questions from their maths lessons and evading the ghosts controlled by Mrs Dickinson. Best of all the questions are all made up by the children themselves!



You said - We listened

Homework for children in Y1 – Y6

We have decided to simplify homework this year and also streamline it across school in order to support parents and pupils.

There were varying views in our Summer Questionnaire; some parents would like more, some less. What strongly comes through though is that as parents you are keen to support your child and would like to know how best you can support them.

The timetable below details the organisation for homework across the school. e.g. Reading books for all children will come out on a Tuesday and will need to be returned on the following Monday. We also hope that having all children in the family handing in the same subject area on the same day will make the mornings and evenings slightly easier.

When reading with your child, please use the prompt questions in their new reading books to help them explore their understanding of what they are reading. Younger children talk about the covers, read the blurb on the back and discuss what a book might be about and as children get older they look at the meaning behind what has been written, explore characters and learn the meanings of increasingly complex language. Reading is great fun and hugely supports them in their writing.

Maths homework will be practical and visual in KS1. The importance at this stage is that young children are able to gain a concrete understanding of number. They need to be able to see it and imagine it and then they can build on this with more abstract concepts. KS2 will complete My Maths online. As parents you will receive an immediate response as to how your child has performed and whether they need any further help. Teachers will be able to monitor how children are doing and will tailor learning in school to meet individual need.

KS1 will receive five spellings based on sounds / spelling patterns learnt during the week and three or five 'End of year' spellings from the word mat which you have already received. KS2 children will receive five spellings from the 'End of year' mat and five spellings from the spelling pattern that is being covered that week. As we discussed in the Information meetings on Monday, it is the application of the spellings which is important so we will not be testing the children but be providing them with a chance to apply them in their learning and monitoring their on-going application throughout the year.

Finally times tables and reading every night! Your child's teacher will let you know which times table to challenge them on but as a guide

By the end of Year 2 – 2,5,10,3

By the end of Year 4 – 2,5,10,3,4,6,7,8,9,11,12

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Reading books in	Reading Books out			Spellings out/Sounds
Maths/My Maths in	Maths homework out			
Times tables - 5 minutes or more				
Reading - 10 minutes or more				

Swimming & Youth University

If your child is swimming you will have received a letter by Parentmail detailing the organisation for this term. Otherwise your child will bring home a Youth University slip with them today which needs returning on Monday morning.

Our Neighbours

We would like to remind both parents and children that the Airtek carpark should not be used as a walk through to access school at the beginning and end of the day. The car park is extremely busy often with large vehicles operating. As I'm sure you will all agree the safety of everyone, especially our children is paramount. Thank you for your cooperation.

Grand Opening

Stamford Mercury visited the school today to celebrate the opening of the new school mosaic organised and created by one of our parents, Tina Firkins during Arts Week last summer. We are extremely grateful to Mrs Firkins for the huge amount of time she gave to this project.



Vacancy

Please visit our school website www.stgilberts.co.uk if you are interested in applying for our Midday Supervisor vacancy.

Can you help?

We have been talking to the children about climbing on the bank outside of the school office. We know that it is very tempting to run up and down here but we are concerned for their safety. Please can you help us to reinforce this message to your children when you arrive and collect them each day. Thank you for your continued support.

DATES TO REMEMBER!

Monday 18th September 9:00am PTA Meeting- Staff Room- All Welcome

Monday 18th September 3:30pm-4:30pm EYFS Parents Information Evening

Thursday 21st September 9:30am-3:00pm Y5/6 Trip to Wilds Lodge Music Festival



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